

The Columbus Weekly Dispatch.

THIRTIETH YEAR.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1909.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

NIGHT SERVICE AT LOCAL POSTOFFICE

BEGINNING TOMORROW NIGHT, THE LOCAL POSTOFFICE WILL BE KEPT CONTINUOUSLY OPEN.

General Delivery, Stamp and Registry Windows Will be Open From Seven Until Nine O'clock Each Evening

At last we are to have an all-night service at the postoffice.

Postmaster Wood and Assistant Postmaster Patterson have been promising us this service for a long time, but one thing or another has delayed its establishment until now. The service will, however, be established tomorrow night, and will remain in force indefinitely.

There will be two clerks on duty at the office throughout the night, and all mails will be promptly handled. There are six trains entering and leaving the city between seven p. m. and seven a. m. which carry mail, so there will be enough work to keep the night force pretty busy. There is a train arriving over the Southern Railway from the west at 7:30 p. m., and one from the east at 8:30 p. m., and mail from these trains will, as has been the case in the past, be distributed as soon as it reaches the office. The southbound night train on the Mobile & Ohio leaves at 11:10 p. m., and the mail from this train will close at 10:45 p. m. The mail from the north on the Mobile & Ohio arrives at 12:30 a. m., and will be distributed as soon as it reaches the office. The northbound train does not leave for Artesia until two a. m., but mail for this train will close at 12:30 a. m., in order that the messenger may take the pouch to the depot when he goes to meet the incoming train at 12:50. The mail arriving on the Mobile & Ohio from the south at five a. m. will be distributed as soon as it reaches the office, and the outgoing mail for the eastbound train on the Southern will close at 4:30 a. m., while that for the westbound train will close at 6:30 a. m.

The two clerks on duty will be Messrs. J. L. Myers and W. A. Walton, and they will be in the office all night. While the clerks will be on duty all night, the office will be open for the transaction of business with the public only from seven to nine p. m. During these hours the general delivery, stamp and registry windows will be kept open, and business in these three departments will progress the same as during the day.

Both Postmaster Wood and Assistant Postmaster Patterson deserve much credit for their enterprise in the matter, as it was necessary to overcome numerous difficulties before the service was finally established. It was difficult in the first place to obtain the additional clerks required, and after these clerks had been secured the messenger who hauls the mails between the postoffice and the depots declined to make extra trips without additional pay. The postoffice department was reluctant to make the necessary increase in the allowance for messenger service, but at the earnest solicitation of the local postoffice authorities finally agreed to do so, and the all-night service will accordingly be established.

Lower Court Affirmed.

The decision of the circuit court in the case of Carrie Staples vs. the Standard Stove Works of this city, which gave plaintiff damages in the sum of one thousand dollars as the result of the death of her husband, Sam Staples, who was killed as the result of an accident at the plant, has been affirmed by the supreme court. The defendant company was represented by Col. Wm. Baldwin and the plaintiff by Mr. W. P. Stribling.

A Tremendous Turnip.

Mr. T. T. Joyner, a farmer living near Ethelville, has brought to The Dispatch office a very large turnip which was raised on his farm. The turnip weighs five pounds, and is a beauty. Mr. Joyner is an exceedingly energetic farmer, and besides marketing a large crop of cotton each year raises immense quantities of vegetables and other country produce.

Mr. J. F. Moore of the Caledonia neighborhood was in the city last week on business.

Mrs. Trost of Louisville, Ky., is in the city visiting Mrs. S. Selig.

The Cooper Trial.

The trial of Duncan B. Cooper, Robin Cooper and John Sharp, all three of whom are under indictment for the murder of Senator E. W. Carmack, was begun before Judge Hart in the criminal court at Nashville last Wednesday. Considering the importance of the case, things moved along very rapidly, four jurors having been accepted during the first day of the trial.

The ruling of Judge Hart had a great deal to do with the rapidity with which things moved along. He began by fixing nine tardy talismen twenty-five dollars each, and next took into his own hands the examination of those men who claimed to have formed an opinion. Unless the prospective juror insisted that he could not render an impartial verdict, even after having heard the evidence, he was held by the court to be competent for duty, and could only be discharged by peremptory challenge on the part of either the prosecution or defense.

A surprise was sprung on the defense when it became known that the State had caused the body of Senator Carmack to be exhumed and an autopsy held. After the murder and in the excitement attending the crime the State failed to order a post mortem. It is essential that the direction from whence the bullets came be determined during the trial, the theory of the State being that Senator Carmack, with his hat raised to greet a lady, was shot from behind. The defense, however, asserts that Senator Carmack fired the first shot, and it seems that some time between the date of the homicide and the present time the State secretly exhumed the body, and caused a careful post mortem to be performed. The course of the bullets was determined, and the State claims to have proof that the bullet which killed the senator entered his back from behind.

The result of the post mortem seems to show that the first shot was fired by a man standing in the rear of Senator Carmack, and if this theory is proven to be correct the defense will probably set up the claim that Robin Cooper, thinking that his father was in danger, fired upon the senator.

Met Death in Singular Way.

West Point, Miss., Jan. 22.—Dr. C. L. Jordan, a prominent physician of this town, met death in a peculiar manner last night. While going into the country five miles from here to visit a patient he lost the road and stumbled upon on Ferdinand Newman, a prominent young planter, who, mistaking the doctor for a band of negroes and thinking he was about to be held up, fired at the approaching figure. It was intensely dark, and all of his bullets went wild, but the shots caused Dr. Jordan's horse to rear up and fall back on him, breaking his arm and shoulder and injuring him internally. He lingered several hours and died at two o'clock this morning.

The first report that reached here was that Dr. Jordan had been waylaid and assassinated, and this aroused the community to an intense pitch. A negro family living near heard the cries of the injured man, and going to his side learned his name and what had happened. A man in the party telephoned here for Dr. Hubbard and Officer Dillingham, and the former went to the scene. On his arrival he found that Dr. Jordan was dying, and that nothing could be done for him.

From the injured man Dr. Hubbard learned the facts in the case. Dr. Jordan said he had gotten off the main road to White's, his destination, and was halted by an aged darkey he knew, who was guiding him back to the point where he had turned off. On the way they met a wagon coming from West Point, filled with men, and accosting them they both asked for a direction. The reply was a fusillade of bullets, which flew wild and scared the doctor's horse into killing him.

It was not known until this morning who did the shooting. Ferdinand Newman came to town and surrendered to Sheriff Deanes, telling a straightforward story, which tallied exactly with the account given by Dr. Jordan. He said he thought he was being held up by negroes, and as it was dark he could not see who was hailing him. Newman was given a hearing before Mayor Rhodes and Justice Smith, and immediately discharged.

Mr. Willett Lawrence, of McBee, was in the city the past week on a visit to friends and relatives.

CHARLES R. SMITH DENIED

BAIL ON SECOND HEARING

SLAYER OF E. A. LAURENT HAD SECOND PRELIMINARY TRIAL BEFORE JUSTICE MATTHEWS AND MAYOR DONNELL LAST WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, AND WAS COMMITTED TO JAIL TO AWAIT ACTION OF THE GRAND JURY.

Miss Estelle Smith, Daughter of the Defendant, Was on Witness Stand and Refused to Either Affirm or Deny Her Alleged Seduction by Laurent, Having Declined to Answer Questions Propounded by the Attorney Representing the Family of the Deceased.

The second preliminary trial of Chas. R. Smith, who shot and killed E. A. Laurent at Artesia on the afternoon of January 15th, occurred before Justice of the Peace Beverly Matthews and Mayor E. S. Donnell at the courthouse in this city last Wednesday afternoon, and as a result of the investigation Mr. Smith was committed to jail without bail to await the action of the grand jury.

It will be remembered that Mr. Smith was tried before Justice of the Peace J. V. Mitchell at Artesia on the day following the shooting, and was admitted to bail in the sum of \$8000. It seems, however, that under the laws of Mississippi a man charged with murder, even though he may have been liberated on bail by one justice of the peace, can, as soon as he enters within the jurisdiction of another magistrate in the same county, be rearrested and tried again on the same charge. Artesia and Columbus, while in the same county, are in separate districts, and when Mr. Smith came to this city last Tuesday he was rearrested on a warrant sworn out before Justice Matthews by J. S. Laurent, a brother of his victim, and the trial set for Wednesday.

The State was represented by Messrs. Betts and Sturdivant of this city and Mr. K. T. McConico of Nashville and the defendant by Hon. Z. P. Landrum of the local bar, who opened proceedings with a motion to postpone the hearing until Friday. The motion was opposed by the State, Mr. McConico having made a brilliant speech in opposition and the motion was overruled by the court.

Dr. Edward Lehmberg, a practicing physician at Artesia; J. C. Graham, a Mobile & Ohio Railroad conductor, and W. A. Rogers, a carpenter employed by the same road, described the killing in detail, all three of the men having agreed that Laurent was shot down without having been given a chance for his life.

Mr. Smith was placed on the stand in his own behalf, and began his testimony with the declaration that he shot Mr. Laurent because he had seduced his daughter. He then proceeded to describe the killing, declaring that Laurent was facing him when the first shot was fired, but fell on his face, and that he then fired two more shots, both of which found lodgement in the head of the dead man, having entered from the rear.

The cross examination of Mr. Smith, which was conducted by Mr. McConico, was devoted largely to the alleged seduction of his daughter. Mr. Smith stated that Laurent had visited his home only upon one occasion, which was last June. Miss Letitia King of Florence, Ala., was a guest at the home at that time, and Mr. Smith started every one in the court room by making the assertion that he believed Miss King went to his home for the purpose of bringing about the seduction of his daughter by Laurent. Smith stated that his daughter was taken sick early last summer, and in August went to Mobile, where she remained two weeks. She was sick when she returned, and later came to an infirmary in this city. Smith said that his suspicions were aroused and that when he questioned his daughter closely she admitted that Laurent had ruined her. He said his daughter was treated in Mobile, but could not recall the name of the attending physician. He declared that Dr. Edward Lehmberg of Artesia treated her in connection with her alleged condition, but when placed on the stand Dr. Lehmberg denied this, declaring that the only trouble for which he ever treated Miss Smith was an eruption of the skin.

Mr. Smith was asked Mr. McConico where his daughter was, and was told that she was not in the city. Inquiry developed the fact that she had been in Columbus until the afternoon of the trial, having started for her home near Artesia at 3:40 p. m. Mr. McConico asked that a subpoena returnable instant be issued, and Miss Smith was intercepted at Artesia and returned immediately to Co-

lumbus. The train upon which she arrived reached the city at 5:10 p. m., and the hearing, which had momentarily halted, was proceeded with as soon as she reached the courtroom.

The sheriff was ordered to clear the courtroom, no one except lawyers, newspaper men and others directly interested in the case having been allowed to remain. Miss Smith proved to be a most obstinate witness, having refused most positively to make a statement regarding her alleged relations with Laurent. The first question asked the witness by Mr. McConico was, "When did you meet Mr. Laurent?" The interrogation was met with the statement, "I refuse to answer," and the same words greeted practically every interrogative propounded by the attorney.

Mr. McConico, while exceedingly polite and deferential toward Miss Smith, was persistent, and among the many questions which he propounded to her and which she firmly declined to answer were the following: "Did Mr. Laurent ever offer you any indignity?" "Did you ever have any improper relations with Mr. Laurent?" "Did you, as a result of relations with Mr. Laurent, ever have occasion to visit professionally any physician in Mobile, Columbus or elsewhere?" "Are you refusing to answer these questions because you don't want to injure your father, and at the same time want to tell the truth?"

Miss Smith was very calm during the greater part of her examination, being broken down only once during the trying ordeal. This was when Mr. McConico pictured, in a most graphic manner, the happy home which had been made desolate by the death of Laurent, and asked if pity and sympathy for the inmates of that home would not impel her to reply to his interrogations. When Mr. McConico propounded this question the witness placed her hand on the shoulder of her father, who was seated close by, and said: "All I have is my father, and for him I live. My mother died twenty-seven years ago, and father and I are all in all to each other."

Witness declared that she had had no conversation with attorney for defense since her return from Artesia, and while she admitted having conversed with her father she stated emphatically that he had not instructed her to refuse to answer questions.

After Miss Smith had retired from the stand her father was recalled, but was asked only one or two unimportant questions. Both sides announced that they had concluded their testimony, and it was decided to submit the case without argument. After consulting his colleague, Justice Matthews announced that the application for bail would be denied, and Mr. Smith was remanded to jail.

While the past few days have brought no new developments in the tragedy, it is said that the prosecution is working on a theory that the alleged seduction of Miss Smith was not the cause of the homicide, but that Smith killed Laurent on account of jealousy over another woman. In his testimony Wednesday Smith mentioned a Miss Letitia King, who was a guest of the family on the occasion of Laurent's one and only visit to the house, and while attorneys for the prosecution will not talk it is understood that facts have developed that lead them to believe that Smith was attached to this woman, and had his anger and jealousy aroused because she showed a preference for Laurent.

This Miss Letitia King, who now seems to be holding the center of the stage in the famous case, is a grass widow. She married a man named Hoffman, but subsequently secured a divorce from him, and resumed her maiden name. She has visited the Smith home on two occasions, once in November, 1907, and again in June of the following year. Smith stated on the stand that during her first visit their relations were very friendly, but on her second visit they became estranged, and he was glad when she left. She is now living with her grandmother, Mrs. Carter, on a

plantation about eight miles north-east of Tusculumbia, Ala. She is a member of a highly respected family, her father being a traveling man in the employ of a Nashville saddlery concern. It is understood that Miss King will be a witness for the prosecution when the case comes up for trial in the circuit court.

H. C. King, a brother of the young lady mentioned above, arrived in the city Friday, and registered at the Stone Hotel, where Mr. McConico, leading counsel for the prosecution, and Mr. J. S. Laurent, a brother of the dead man, were quartered while here. Miss King and her father were expected to arrive yesterday, but missed connection, and it was stated by parties cognizant of their movements that they would certainly be here by today, and it is intimated that Miss King will go on the stand when the case comes to trial in the circuit court, and will prove a strong witness for the prosecution.

That the lawyers engaged in the prosecution were cognizant of Smith's feeling toward Miss King before her name was mentioned by him is evinced in the fact that they sent a man to interview her during the early part of the week. This man, whose name is McFadden, and who was sent here by the Simmons Hardware Company to work up evidence, was at Miss King's home on Wednesday, the day of the second preliminary hearing, and called up Attorney McConico over the long distance telephone during the progress of the trial. What McFadden told the attorney could not be learned, but it is said to have been something about a letter written by Smith to Miss King in which endearing terms were used. The telephone incident did not come to light until Friday, and when asked concerning his trip to Miss King's home McFadden acknowledged having been there and admitted having called Attorney McConico up over the telephone and told him something about a letter, but declined to divulge the contents of this letter.

Mr. McConico, who, together with Messrs. Betts and Sturdivant, is representing the prosecution, was highly complimented upon the able manner in which he conducted the examination of witnesses at the trial Wednesday afternoon. While painstaking and persistent, Mr. McConico was at all times urbane and courteous, and showed due consideration for every witness whom he examined. Important business engagements forced Mr. McConico to leave for Nashville on Saturday, but he hopes to return to Columbus Monday, and will remain here throughout the coming session of court to look after the interests of the prosecution.

Hon. S. A. Witherspoon of Meridian and Col. Wm. Baldwin of the local bar have, upon the advice of Mr. Smith's brothers, been retained to assist Mr. Landrum, who took charge of the case immediately after the homicide and who will continue to act as leading counsel for the defense.

Alabamians Interested.

Tusculumbia, Ala., Jan. 22.—Interest in the case of Charles Smith, in progress at Columbus, Miss., the living principal in the tragedy at Artesia, Miss., in which E. A. Laurent, of Nashville, was shot and killed, is probably as intense in Tusculumbia and the eastern portion of Colbert county as at Columbus, where the trial is being held. There are three reasons for this interest.

First, the man who fired the fatal shots is a son of a former resident of Colbert county, John Smith, who resided for many years near Leighton, ten miles east of Tusculumbia, and who is related to the Kings, Rands and Deloneys, the best and most prominent and influential people of this section. John E. Deloney, president of the Tusculumbia Bank and Trust Company, is a first cousin of Smith, the latter's father and the former's mother being brother and sister.

The second reason is that Miss Letitia King has been brought into prominence in the case. Miss King is also closely connected to the same well-known families mentioned above. She is the only daughter of W. O. King, who resided at Leighton, this county for many years, and now a traveling salesman for a Nashville saddlery and harness firm. His daughter was born near Leighton, it is understood, and when quite young moved with her father to Nashville, where she grew to young womanhood and was married to a man by the name of Hoffman, said to be an archi-

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ADDITIONAL CASES ON STATE DOCKET

DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CASES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE STATE DOCKET.

The Term of Circuit Court Which Convened Monday Promises to Be One of More Than Usual Interest.

The midwinter term of the circuit court convenes Monday, and promises to be one of great interest. Judge Buckley and District Attorney Currie are expected to arrive in the city tonight, and everything is in readiness for the opening of court on Monday morning. Under the provisions of the code the midwinter term of court is scheduled to convene on the third Monday in January, but Judge Buckley was compelled to preside over a special session in Lauderdale county last week, and the first week of the local term was preterminated.

The civil docket is unusually heavy and several new cases have been added to the State docket during the past few days. There are a number of cases to come before the grand jury for investigation, and quite a large number of indictments will doubtless result from the proceedings of the legislative body.

Interest naturally centers in the case of Charles R. Smith, who is in jail on the charge of murder as the result of the killing of E. A. Laurent, who was shot at Artesia on January 15th. The proceedings in this case have been somewhat unusual. Mr. Smith having had two preliminary examinations. The first trial was before Justice of the Peace Mitchell at Artesia on the day following the homicide, and as a result of this investigation the defendant was released on bond in the sum of \$8000. He was subsequently rearrested, and upon being tried before Justice Matthews and Mayor Donnell in this city last Thursday was committed to jail without bail to await the action by the grand jury. This is decidedly the most important case that the grand jury will be called upon to investigate, and the result is being eagerly awaited.

The most important case on the civil docket is that of Mrs. Donie M. Halbert et al. vs. the Howard Clock Company of Boston, Mass. Dr. Halbert was killed last August by the falling weight of the courthouse clock and as a result of the accident Mrs. Halbert and her children have instituted suit against the Howard Clock Company, which concern installed the clock, for \$20,000.

A list of cases appearing on the civil, State and appearance dockets has already appeared in The Dispatch, and the following cases have been added to the State docket since this list was published:

State vs. John Fell, carrying concealed weapons.
State vs. Charles Martin, retailing.
State vs. Sam Brooks, carrying concealed weapons.

Former Columbian Complimented.

Columbians will read with interest the following clipping from a recent issue of the Nashville American, which tells of an honor bestowed upon Mrs. Eugene Crutcher of Nashville. Mrs. Crutcher was formerly Miss Ann's Long of this city, and her friends note with pride the prominent position she occupies in every laudable movement undertaken by the good women of Tennessee.

"Mrs. Benton McMillan, who has been complimented with the appointment as State vice-president of the Woman's National Alvers and Harbor's Congress, has invited two prominent Tennessee women to assist her in the work, three women being selected for the offices in each State. Mrs. McMillan has chosen Mrs. W. D. Beard as chairman of the educational department, and Mrs. Eugene Crutcher, chairman of publicity. Both have accepted and will lend strength to the work of the congress of Tennessee."

Hon. Jordan Boone, a prominent member of the Corinth bar, was in the city last week on professional business.

Mr. Whitten Duncan, a popular traveling salesman for the firm of Phillips & Cutthoff of Nashville, was in the city the past week.

Mr. N. M. Andrews, of Caledonia was in the city the past week on a business visit.